

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, TZ

SUBJECT: ZANZIBAR TREASON TRIAL: SIX CONVICTS FREED UPON
EXPIRATION OF PRISON TERMS

REF: (A) ZANZIBAR A-8; (B) ZANZIBAR 65

1. SIX ZANZIBAR TREASON TRIAL CONVICTS WERE RELEASED FROM THE ZANZIBAR REFORMATORY IN AUGUST AFTER SERVING THEIR SENTENCES. ACCORDING TO THE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE THE SIX BECAME FREE ON AUGUST 18 AFTER THE SUPREME COUNCIL ORDERED EARLIER IN THE YEAR THAT JAIL SENTENCES ON THE CONVICTS SHOULD BE DATED BACK TO THE DAY THEY WERE ARRESTED. THE RELEASED CONVICTS ARE: SAIDI SALUM SAID (BAESI), SAID MOHAMMED SAID (TUMBO), MOHAMED ALI LADHA, MOHAMMED KHELEF MOHAMED, HUMUD ALI ABDULA BARWANI, AND KHAMIS ABEID OMAR. ALL HAD BEEN SERVING EIGHT-YEAR SENTENCES EXCEPT KHAMIS ABEID OMAR, WHO WAS SENTENCED TO 7 YEARS.

2. OF THE 37 CONVICTS WHO REMAIN IMPRISONED, THREE ON ZANZIBAR AND FOUR ON THE MAINLAND ARE UNDER A SENTENCE OF DEATH. IT IS HIGHLY UNLIKELY THAT THE FOUR HELD ON THE MAINLAND WILL EVER BE HANDED OVER TO THE ZANZIBARIS FOR EXECUTION BUT AN
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AN AFFIRMATION OF THE DEATH SENTENCES BY REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL CHAIRMAN ABOUD JUMBE COULD MEAN THAT THE THREE ON ZANZIBAR WOULD FACE THE FIRING SQUAD. IT WAS THOUGHT THAT JUMBE MIGHT CHOOSE TO GRANT CLEMENCY TO THOSE UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH DURING THE HOLY MONTH OF RAMADAN. THIS DID NOT HAPPEN, PRIMARILY BECAUSE JUMBE DOES NOT WANT ANY PART IN A DEMONSTRATION OF COMPASSION AGAINST THOSE WHO ATTEMPTED TO OVERTHROW A "LEGITIMATELY

CONSTITUTED GOVERNMENT." JUMBE'S PERSONAL PREFERENCE IS TO HAVE THE LEADERS OF THE PLOT SHOT AS A DETERRENT TO THOSE WHO MIGHT WISH TO CHALLENGE HIS GOVERNMENT, WE ARE TOLD. BUT HIS ADVISORS HAVE CONVINCED HIM THAT SUCH AN ACTION WOULD SEVERELY DAMAGE THE ZANZIBAR-MAINLAND RELATIONSHIP AND RETURN ZANZIBAR'S IMAGE ABROAD TO THAT IT ENJOYED UNDER KARUME. THUS, THE INMATES UNDER SENTENCE OF DEATH WILL IN EFFECT GET A REPRIEVE SINCE THEY CANNOT BE EXECUTED UNLESS JUMBE AFFIRMS THEIR SENTENCES.

3. COMMENT: JUMBE MAY, IN TIME, MAKE THE REPRIEVE A FORMAL ONE. BUT THE FACT THAT HE CANNOT BRING HIMSELF TO DO SO NOW IS ONE INDICATION THAT TANZANIA'S VICE PRESIDENT DOES NOT FEEL COMPLETELY SAFE AND SECURE IN HIS HOME BASE.
ADAMS

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